



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

AUG 01 2008

Ms. Mayra Diaz,
Project Manager
Miami-Dade Transit
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite 9th Floor
Miami, Florida 33128

SUBJ: EPA Comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Miami North Corridor Study; Miami-Dade County.
CEQ #: 20060247 ERP #: FTA-E40775-FL

Dear Ms. Diaz:

Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), EPA Region 4 has reviewed the subject document. The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) evaluates the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) proposal to construct a 9.5 mile-long heavy rapid rail transit extension in North Miami-Dade County from NW 27th Avenue to the Miami-Dade/Broward County Line.

The development of additional mass transit options for the populations of Miami-Dade County is a desirable goal. EPA supports this type of project in urban areas because it provides an alternative to the sole reliance on highways for transportation demand, and with proper mitigation should result in fewer adverse impacts. From an air quality perspective, transit options generally reduce the amount of additional air emissions in the transportation corridor compared to highway options. However, they are not without impacts.

The potential impacts identified in the SDEIS include approximately ninety business/twelve residential/ and one residential relocation, 227 noise-sensitive sites, and visual impacts associated with nine miles of overhead guideway, seven stations and seven park-and-ride facilities. These impacts primarily affect environmental justice populations within the project area. In addition, forty-three medium to high risk contamination sites are located within the proposed alignment. Consequently, every effort should be made to ensure that mitigation recommendations related to the project are implemented and documented in the FEIS as project commitments. (See Detailed Comments).

Based on the information provided in the subject document, EPA rates this document EC-2; that is, the document has identified environmental concerns associated with the proposed action and EPA requests some additional information. We request that the identified issues be addressed in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS). For impacts that cannot be avoided / minimized mitigation commitments should be provided in the FSEIS and Record of Decision.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed action. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact Ntale Kajumba at (404) 562-9620.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Heinz Mueller", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
NEPA Program Office
Office of Policy and Management

Enclosure - Detailed Comments